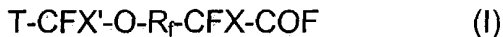


### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1. (Original). A process for the preparation of perfluoropolyethers having at least one -COF end group of formula:



wherein:

T is equal to COF, F, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>3</sub> perfluoroalkyl;

X, X', equal to or different from each other, are F or -CF<sub>3</sub>;

R<sub>f</sub> is selected from:



wherein:

the sum  $n+m+p+q$  ranges from 2 to 200,

the  $(p+q)/(m+n+p+q)$  ratio is lower than or equal to 10:100, preferably

comprised between 0.5:100 and 4:100,

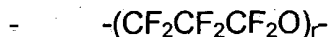
the  $n/m$  ratio ranges from 0.2 to 6, preferably from 0.5 to 3;

$m, n, p, q$ , are equal to or different from each other and when  $m, n$  range

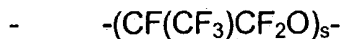
from 1 to 100, preferably from 1 to 80, then  $p, q$  range from 0 to 80,

preferably from 0 to 50;

the units with  $n, m, p, q$  indexes being statistically distributed along the chain,



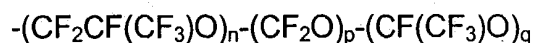
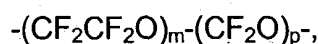
wherein  $r$  ranges from 2 to 200,



wherein s ranges from 2 to 200,

by reduction of the corresponding perfluoropolyethers containing peroxidic bonds, using gaseous hydrogen in the presence of a catalyst comprising metals of the VIII group supported on metal fluorides, optionally in the presence of perfluorinated solvents inert at a temperature from 20°C to 140°C, preferably from 80°C to 130°C and at a pressure between 1 and 50 atm, preferably between 1 and 10 atm.

Claim 2. (Original) A process according to claim 1, wherein  $R_f$  is selected in the group formed by:



Claim 3. (Currently amended) A process according to ~~claims 1-2~~ claim 2, wherein the metal of the VIII group is Pd, Pt, Rh, preferably Pd.

4. (Currently amended) A process according to ~~claims 1-3~~ claim 3, wherein the metal fluoride is selected in the group consisting of  $CaF_2$ ,  $BaF_2$ ,  $MgF_2$ ,  $AlF_3$ , preferably  $CaF_2$ .

Claim 5. (Currently amended) A process according to ~~claims 1-4~~ claim 4, wherein the concentration of the VIII group metal on the metal fluoride is comprised between 0.1% and 10% with respect to the catalyst total weight, preferably between 1% and 2% by weight.

Claim 6. (Currently amended) A process according to ~~claims 1-5~~ claim 5, wherein the used catalyst amount is in the range 1%-10%, preferably 1%-5% by weight with respect to the peroxidic perfluoropoly-ether.